Amendments to the Specification:

Please substitute the replacement Abstract attached hereto as Appendix A for the originally filed Abstract.

Please replace paragraphs [0091] and [00178] with the following:

[0091]   FIG 7 depicts a flow chart of the graphical investor interface presented to the investor during the creation or modification of the portfolio according to the computer-based system of the present invention and FIG 18 depicts a flow chart of a method for modifying the portfolio according to the computer-based system of the present invention.

[00178]   Screen B also shows the calculation of the risk (beta) 55b-55h and expected differential return levels 56b-56h for the stocks that are used to calculate the portfolio risk levels 53a and the expected differential returns 54a of the portfolio. It would also be made clear that a principal benefit of the computer-based system of the present invention and the concept of using a portfolio for investing instead of individual stocks is the notion that the riskiness in any one stock held in a portfolio may be different from the riskiness of that stock held by itself (thereby generating some of the benefits that stem from diversification, etc.). Consequently, investors will be cautioned to focus on portfolio risk/returns, not individual stock risk/return. Again, then, there is a great advantage to investors as described above from being able to adjust their whole portfolio characteristics just through moving a pointer (51a, 52a in Screen A up or down (or the hand of a dial, or the color code on a litmus-type strip, etc.)), as opposed to having to consider and understand the effects on the portfolio from modifying individual stock positions. Thus less than expert investors, for example, can have their portfolio adjusted automatically by having the system re-weight or add cash, or leverage, when the investor adjusts the pointers, dials or colors. Turning to FIG 18, shown therein is a method 180 for implementing a portfolio of investments. In step 181, a portfolio of investments is selected from potential investment options. In step 182, a desired risk-return characteristic of the selected portfolio is adjusted by adjusting a risk- return pointer using a graphical user interface device. In step 183, the system processor determines automatically a weighting of instruments in the portfolio to accommodate the adjusted risk-return

characteristic. In step 184, one or more trades to implement the adjusted portfolio are transmitted over a computer network.